

Marie and Fred have been outstanding community employment partners, and I am honored to be their representative in the 8th District of Pennsylvania.

It is a pleasure to honor First Savings Bank of Perkasio for their commitment to the Wellspring Clubhouse and its mission of providing hope and opportunities for people with mental illness. Thank you once again for all that you do for the Bucks County community.

#### WASHINGTON POST ADMITS ERRORS IN KOCH STORY

#### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post recently published a story about alleged questionable business practices by Koch subsidiaries dating back to the 1990s. The Post received criticism for the unbalanced and incomplete story on Koch Industries.

Patrick B. Pexton, Washington Post Ombudsman, stated "I think The Post erred in republishing this story, or at least in the way it did. And when the Kochs complained to The Post after publication, The Post's response wasn't handled well."

In addition, the Ombudsman goes on to state, "... I think the story lacked context, was tendentious and was unfair in not reporting some of the exculpatory and contextual information. . . . I think newspapers should always be provocative. But they should also be fair and provide context. . . . The Post could have included a sidebar summarizing and linking to the rebuttals. It could have called Koch directly—it didn't—and put its comments in the sidebar."

I hope that the Washington Post will be more thorough and accurate in its reporting in the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND MEDIATION CENTER

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland Mediation Center as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. The Mediation Center has provided an essential forum for dialogue and communication which has fostered cooperation and peace within the community. It has proven especially valuable for the city's youth, who often lack the voice to raise their concerns about problems which directly affect them.

The Center began as the Community Youth Mediation program in 1981. Focusing on the Near West Side community of Cleveland, this organization became the first grass-roots youth oriented mediation program in the country. The Center provided guidance to thousands of individuals and helped to address issues of truancy, school violence, and cases of abuse and neglect. Two of the programs developed by the Center would go on to be used by both the Juvenile Court and Cleveland Public Schools.

Following these successes, the Center was utilized in engaging the city at large. By 1992, it had expanded its youth centered approach to include issues such as neighbor to neighbor mediation and training. Homelessness has also been one of the Center's major concerns, particularly in addressing discrepancies between the city's homeless population and services provided by city agencies. Today, the Cleveland Mediation Center continues their mission of promoting constructive conflict resolution, especially among youth, and strengthening community ties with an emphasis on mediation and mediation training.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Cleveland Mediation Center in celebrating their important role as facilitators within their communities and enabling fellow citizens to work through their conflicts in peaceful and constructive ways.

#### COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support H.R. 2838, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011." This legislation authorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2014 and authorizes service strength of 47,000 active duty personnel.

As a Senior Member on the Committee on Homeland Security and the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I understand the importance of protecting our maritime borders. In our post 9/11 climate, homeland security continues to be a top priority for our nation.

In 1787, Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist Paper Number 12 laid the foundation for the modern Coast Guard when he noted that "[a] few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense, be made useful sentinels of our laws."

I believe protecting our country by air, land, and sea is critical to our national security interests. As Coast Guard is beneficial to our maritime interests, and consequently, our national security it is imperative that we provide the Coast Guard with the funding they need.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001 the focus of many federal agencies shifted to include an increased emphasis on Homeland Security. Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, a number of security missions were assigned to the Coast Guard. Without question the first mission of our Coast Guard has been to protect our ports, waterways and to focus on coastal security. They have completed this mission with honor for centuries.

Across the United States there are currently more than 350 major ports of which 23 are located in my home state of Texas.

I am honored to represent the 18th Congressional District which includes the Port of Houston, one of our nation's busiest ports.

More than 220 million tons of cargo moved through the Port of Houston in 2010 and it has been ranked as first in foreign waterborne tonnage for the 15th consecutive year.

The port links Houston with over 1,000 ports located in 203 countries, and provides 785,000 jobs throughout the state of Texas. Maritime ports are major centers of trade, commerce, and travel along our nation's coastline. All of these ports are protected by the Coast Guard.

As a Representative from Texas, a border state, I am extremely concerned with curtailing the flow of illegal drugs entering into the United States. The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for maritime drug interdiction.

Houston has been classified by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, and in a 2009 report, the ONDCP expressed concern that "the sheer volume of maritime traffic and foreign cargo that passes through the port offers another avenue for drug smuggling."

The Coast Guard is responsible for and has coordinated with other federal, state, and local agencies and countries within the region to disrupt and deter the flow of illegal drugs into Houston and other ports. This coordinated effort has resulted in a decrease in the supply of illicit substances being transported all over the country.

The Coast Guard protects the interests of American citizens and American commerce abroad. Last year, 73.2 million tons of exports left the Port of Houston to be sold to countries around the world. These exports represented \$70.8 billion dollars, and countless American jobs.

The international counter—piracy efforts of the Coast Guard focus on preventing attacks of piracy that threaten American commercial vessels and cargo. The Coast Guard also performs vital counter terrorism measures in ports abroad to ensure the safety of Americans across the globe.

In addition, in Houston the Coast Guard routinely conducts integrated operations with city, county, state and Federal Law Enforcement partners. The joint agency Houston Area Maritime Operations Center is a prime example of the type of coordination efforts directed under a recent Maritime Operations Coordination Plan signed by the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Port of Houston as one of the world's busiest ports is a tremendous responsibility which has been smoothly operated by the Coast Guard. In terms of maritime traffic and cargo, the Port of Houston ranks first in the nation for number of ship arrivals and second in total cargo tonnage. Houston handles over 50 percent of all containerized cargo arriving at Gulf of Mexico ports.

Houston is the Energy capitol of the United States for a reason, more than 50 percent of the gasoline used in the United States is refined in this area. With more than 100 petrochemical waterfront facilities, Houston has the second largest such complex in the world. Major corporations such as Exxon-Mobil, Shell, Saudi ARAMCO, Stolt Nielson, Odjell USA Inc., Sea River and Kirby Marine have national or international headquarters in Houston.

These operations typically involve the Harris County Sheriff's Office and local city Police